

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for determining a scene change in a video sequence comprising:  
receiving a first video frame, a second video frame and a third video frame;  
determining a first set of motion vectors between the first video frame and the  
second video frame and a second set of motion vectors using the third video frame; and  
comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors to a first threshold  
to determine whether a scene change has occurred.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first video frame precedes the second video  
frame and the second video frame precedes the third video frame.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the third video frame precedes the first and  
second video frames and the second video frame precedes the first video frame.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein:  
the first video frame comprises a first and second field;  
the second video frame comprises a first and second field; and  
the third video frame comprises a first and second field.  
the first set of motion vectors comprises a first subset of motion vectors between  
the first field of the first video frame and the first field of the second video frame and a  
second subset of motion vectors between the second field of the first video frame and the  
second field of the second video frame; and  
the second set of motion vectors comprises a first subset of motion vectors  
between the first field of the second video frame and the first field of the third video  
frame and a second subset of motion vectors between the second field of the second  
video frame and the second field of the third video frame.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of  
motion vectors further comprises:  
comparing a first ratio of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors and the  
first subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the second subset of the first set of motion vectors and the second subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the first video frame and second video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors further comprises:

comparing a first ratio of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors and the first subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the second subset of the first set of motion vectors and the second subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the first video frame and second video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold and the sum of the magnitudes of members of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors is greater than a second threshold.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein if second frame is a P-frame comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors further comprises:

comparing a first ratio of the first subset of the second set of motion vectors and the first subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the second subset of the second set of motion vectors and the second subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the second video frame and third video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold.

8. The method of claim 4, wherein if the second frame is a P-frame comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors further comprises:

comparing a first ratio of the first subset of the second set of motion vectors and the first subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the second subset of the second set of motion vectors and the second subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the second video frame and third video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold and the sum of the magnitudes of members of the first subset of the second set of motion vectors is greater than a second threshold.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the first video frame comprises a first and second field;

the second video frame comprises a first and second field; and

the third video frame comprises a first and second field.

the first set of motion vectors comprises a first subset of motion vectors between the first field of the first video frame and the first field of the second video frame and a second subset of motion vectors between the second field of the first video frame and the second field of the second video frame; and

the second set of motion vectors comprises a first subset of motion vectors between the first field of the first video frame and the first field of the third video frame and a second subset of motion vectors between the second field of the first video frame and the second field of the third video frame.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein if the first frame is an I-frame comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors further comprises:

comparing a first ratio of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors and a sum of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors minus the second subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the first subset of the second set of motion vectors and the sum of the first subset of the second set of motion vectors minus the second subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the first video frame and second video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein if the first frame is an I-frame comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors further comprises:

comparing a first ratio of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors and the sum of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors minus the second subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the first subset of the second set of motion vectors and the sum of the first subset of the second set of motion vectors minus the second subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the first and second video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold and if the sum of magnitudes of members of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors is greater than a second threshold.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein if the first frame is a B-frame comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors further comprises:

comparing a first ratio of the second subset of the first set of motion vectors and the first subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the second subset of the second set of motion vectors and the first subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the second video frame and third video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein if the first frame is a B-frame comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors further comprises:

comparing a first ratio of the second subset of the first set of motion vectors and the first subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the second subset of the second set of motion vectors and the first subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the second video frame and third video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold and if a sum of members of the second subset of the first set of motion vectors is larger than a second threshold.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein if a scene change is detected further comprising a new group of pictures (GOP) can begin at a point after the scene change.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein if a scene change occurs at an I-frame further comprising converting the I-frame to a P-frame and converting a following P-frame to an I-frame.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the threshold is a heuristically determined value.

17. A video device comprising:

an input configured to receive a first video frame, a second video frame, and a third video frame; and

a processor configured to determine a first set of motion vectors between the first video frame and the second video frame and a second set of motion vectors using the third video frame and compare a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors to a first threshold to determine whether a scene change has occurred.

18. The video device of claim 17, wherein:

the first video frame comprises a first and second field;

the second video frame comprises a first and second field; and

the third video frame comprises a first and second field.

the first set of motion vectors comprises a first subset of motion vectors between the first field of the first video frame and the first field of the second video frame and a second subset of motion vectors between the second field of the first video frame and the second field of the second video frame; and

the second set of motion vectors comprises a first subset of motion vectors between the first field of the second video frame and the first field of the third video frame and a second subset of motion vectors between the second field of the second video frame and the second field of the third video frame.

19. The video device of claim 18 wherein if second frame is a P-frame comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors further comprises:

comparing a first ratio of the first subset of the second set of motion vectors and the first subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the second subset of the second set of motion vectors and the second subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the second video frame and third video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold.

20. The video device of claim 18, wherein if the second frame is a P-frame comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors further comprises:

comparing a first ratio of the first subset of the second set of motion vectors and the first subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the second subset of the second set of motion vectors and the second subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the second video frame and third video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold and the sum of the magnitudes of members of the first subset of the second set of motion vectors is greater than a second threshold.

21. The video device of claim 17, wherein:

the first video frame comprises a first and second field;

the second video frame comprises a first and second field; and

the third video frame comprises a first and second field.

the first set of motion vectors comprises a first subset of motion vectors between the first field of the first video frame and the first field of the second video frame and a second subset of motion vectors between the second field of the first video frame and the second field of the second video frame; and

the second set of motion vectors comprises a first subset of motion vectors between the first field of the first video frame and the first field of the third video frame and a second subset of motion vectors between the second field of the first video frame and the second field of the third video frame.

22. The video device of claim 17, wherein if the first frame is an I-frame comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors further comprises:

comparing a first ratio of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors and a sum of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors minus the second subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the first subset of the second set of motion vectors and the sum of the first subset of the second set of motion vectors minus the second subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and  
determining there is a scene change between the first video frame and second video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold.

23. The video device of claim 17, wherein if the first frame is an I-frame comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors further comprises:

comparing a first ratio of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors and the sum of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors minus the second subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the first subset of the second set of motion vectors and the sum of the first subset of the second set of motion vectors minus the second subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the first and second video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold and if the sum of magnitudes of members of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors is greater than a second threshold.

24. The video device of claim 17, wherein if the first frame is a B-frame comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors further comprises:

comparing a first ratio of the second subset of the first set of motion vectors and the first subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the second subset of the second set of motion vectors and the first subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the second video frame and third video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold.

25. The video device of claim 17, wherein if the first frame is a B-frame comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors further comprises:

comparing a first ratio of the second subset of the first set of motion vectors and the first subset of the first set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the second subset of the second set of motion vectors and the first subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the second video frame and third video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold and if a sum of members of the second subset of the first set of motion vectors is larger than a second threshold.

26. A computer readable medium storing executable computer program instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method comprising:

receiving a first video frame, a second video frame and a third video frame;

determining a first set of motion vectors between the first video frame and the second video frame and a second set of motion vectors using the third video frame; and

comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors to a first threshold to determine whether a scene change has occurred.

27. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 26, wherein the first video frame comprises a first and second field;

the second video frame comprises a first and second field; and

the third video frame comprises a first and second field.

the first set of motion vectors comprises a first subset of motion vectors between the first field of the first video frame and the first field of the second video frame and a second subset of motion vectors between the second field of the first video frame and the second field of the second video frame; and

the second set of motion vectors comprises a first subset of motion vectors between the first field of the second video frame and the first field of the third video

frame and a second subset of motion vectors between the second field of the second video frame and the second field of the third video frame.

28. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 27, wherein comparing a first ratio of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors and the first subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the second subset of the first set of motion vectors and the second subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the first video frame and second video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold.

29. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 27, wherein comparing a ratio of the first and second sets of motion vectors further comprises:

comparing a first ratio of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors and the first subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold;

comparing a second ratio of the second subset of the first set of motion vectors and the second subset of the second set of motion vectors to the first threshold; and

determining there is a scene change between the first video frame and second video frame if the first and second ratios are larger than the first threshold and the sum of the magnitudes of members of the first subset of the first set of motion vectors is greater than a second threshold.